

## August 20th – The Preaching We Need

*“And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.”*  
(1 Cor. 2:4-5)

Paul had already identified himself as a preacher of the Gospel in chapter 1, and in chapter 2 he wanted his readers to understand his sermon methodology. Paul was a man of learning. From his youth he had been raised to be a Pharisee, sitting at the feet of prominent, learned men like Gamaliel. And when he made a missionary trip to Athens he was surrounded by pagan gods, but even there he demonstrated his knowledge of secular learning by quoting Greco-Roman poets (Acts 17:28).

Though he probably could've held his own on any debate stage, when he came to Corinth he did not elect to share some sort of doctoral dissertation. Instead, he said “my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom.” There's not always something wrong with human reason – we know that the human race has made many amazing discoveries! And yet there is a power much greater than anything carnal – it is the Spirit-born wisdom that comes from above.

Paul said that his preaching was “in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.” What is Spirit-filled preaching? Simply put, Spirit-filled preaching is biblical preaching. The same Spirit who Authored the Bible also adds His power to the preaching of the Word. The goal of the preacher is not to deliver some new word – it is to reveal the time-tested truth of Scripture. The Spirit-filled, powerful preaching we desperately need in our churches encourages us to place our faith in the Lord rather than men.